CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	✓ Force	✓ Discourt	. 🔲 U.S.
Mac Muir		Squad #12	201708302	✓ Abuse	☑ O.L.	✓ Injury
TVIAC IVIAII		Squad #12	201700302	T Touse	V 0.11.	V mjury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:		Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Thursday, 08/03/2017 3:00 AM		\$ 87(2)(b) 4. stationhouse	5th Precinct	45	2/3/2019	2/3/2019
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reporte	d: Date/Tim	e Received at CC	CRB
Wed, 09/27/2017 1:27 PM		IAB	Phone	Tue, 10/1	0/2017 11:21 AI	M
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Add	ress			
Witness(es)		Home Add	ress			
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command			
1. Officers						
2. POM Hector Basora	02526	960211	045 PCT			
3. POM Melvin Chittum	07373	941547	045 PCT			
4. POM Sean Liscoe	06790	953000	045 PCT			
5. LT Michael Piper	00000	945281	045 PCT			
6. LT Burim Berisha	00000	938058	045 PCT			
7. POM Gabriel Cotto	30799	928119	045 PCT			
8. An officer						
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	o Tax No	Cmd Name			
1. POM Fernando Benitezcolon	515	956429	045 PCT			
2. DT3 Kristopher Persaud	3285	937280	045 DET			
3. POF Martha Nova	16220	959849	045 PCT			
4. POM Colin Houlihan	08879	960682	045 PCT			
5. POM Neil Anderson	19190	958248	045 PCT			
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on		Inv	estigator Reco	mmendation
A.LT Michael Piper	Abuse: A damaged		Lieutenant Michael l operty.	Piper		
B.LT Michael Piper	Abuse: L § 87(2)(b)	ieutenant Michael Pip in the Bronx		of		
C.POM Gabriel Cotto		Cotto used physical for	the Bronx, Police Coce against § 87(2)(b)	Officer		
D.POM Gabriel Cotto		Cotto used physical for	the Bronx, Police Coce against § 87(2)(b)	Officer		
E.POM Gabriel Cotto		esy: At ^{§ 87(2)(b)} Gabriel Cotto spoke dis	in the Bronx, Poscourteously to § 87(2)			

Officer(s)	Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
F.POM Gabriel Cotto	Off. Language: At \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx, Police Officer Gabriel Cotto made remarks based on \$87(2) s gender identity.	
G.LT Michael Piper	Abuse: Lieutenant Michael Piper searched the basement of in the Bronx.	
H.POM Hector Basora	Discourtesy: At § 87(2)(b) in the Bronx, Hector Basora spoke discourteously to § 87(2)(b)	
I. An officer	Discourtesy: At \$87(2)(b) an officer spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(b)	
J.POM Hector Basora	Discourtesy: At the 45th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Hector Basora spoke discourteously to [5] 87(2)	
K.POM Hector Basora	Force: At the 45th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Hector Basora struck § 87(2)(5) against a wall.	
L.POM Gabriel Cotto	Force: At the 45th Precinct Stationhouse, Police Officer Gabriel Cotto struck \$87(2)(b) against a wall.	
M.POM Sean Liscoe	Force: At the 45th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Sean Liscoe struck §87(2)(b) against a wall.	
N.POM Sean Liscoe	Force: At the 45th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Sean Liscoe used physical force against §87(2)(b)	
O.POM Melvin Chittum	Force: At the 45th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Melvin Chittum used physical force against (872)	
P.POM Melvin Chittum	Abuse: At the 45th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Melvin Chittum threatened §87(2)(b) with the use of force.	
Q.LT Burim Berisha	Abuse: At the 45th Precinct stationhouse, Lieutnenant Burim Berisha threatened [\$87(2)(b)] with the use of force.	
R. Officers	Abuse: Officers seized \$87(2)(b) s property.	

Case Summary

submitted the following complaint with the Internal

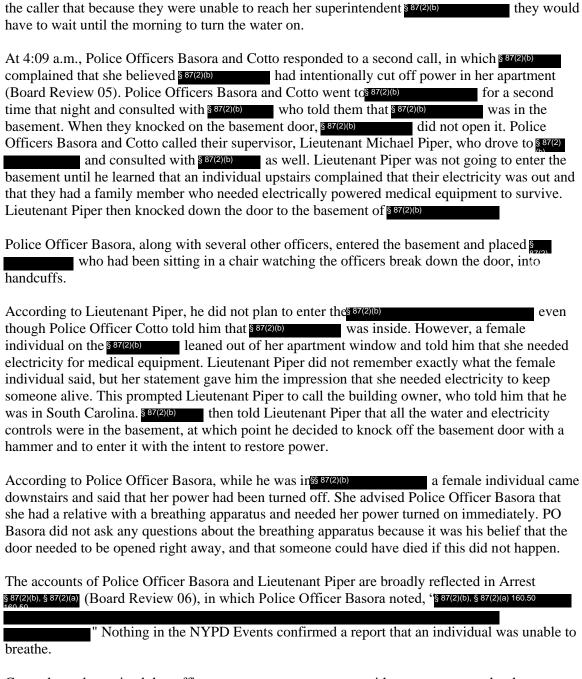
On September 27, 2017, § 87(2)(b)

Affairs Bureau (IAB) via telephone. It was received at the CCRB on October 10, 2017, via Log #2017-38385. At approximately 2:45 a.m. on August 3, 2017, § 87(2)(b) went into the basement of his apartment building at § 87(2)(b) in the Bronx. § 87(2)(b) was the superintendent of the building and went to reset the circuit breaker. He turned off the water, reset the circuit breaker, and stayed in the basement to watch television. At approximately 3:00 a.m., heard approximately five knocks on the locked basement door. § 87(2)(b) "Get the fuck out of here." For the next twenty to thirty minutes, Lieutenant Michael Piper of the 45th Precinct broke down \$87(2)(b) s door, damaging it in the process (Allegation A: Abuse of Authority – Entry of Premises: 887(2)(9) (Allegation B: Abuse of Authority -Property Damage: \$37(2)(9) Lieutenant Piper was allegedly joined by Police Officers Hector Basora, Gabriel Cotto, Neil Anderson, and Colin Houlihan of the 45th Precinct entered the basement with Lieutenant Piper (subsumed within Allegation A). 887(2)(5) was placed in handcuffs by Police Officer Basora and Police Officer Cotto allegedly punched him on the left side (Allegation C: Force – Physical Force: §87(2)(9) $A_{S} \S 87(2)(b)$ out of the basement and upstairs, Police Officer Cotto allegedly punched him in the head again (Allegation D: Force – Physical Force: \$37(2)(9) Police Officer Cotto allegedly said to Police Officer Basora, "Esta pieza de mierda cree que tiene bola," meaning, 'This piece of shit thinks he has balls' in Spanish (Allegation E: Discourtesy – Word: §87(2)(9) (Allegation F: Offensive Language – Gender Identity: §87(2)(9) was removed from the basement, Lieutenant Piper conducted a protective sweep of the basement in § 87(2)(b) (Allegation G: Abuse of Authority - Search of Premises: In the police vehicle in which he would be transported, Police Officer Basora and an unidentified officer allegedly told §87(2)(b) "You're not gonna get shit" (Allegation H: Discourtesy - Word: § 87(2)(9) (Allegation I: Discourtesy - Word: § 87(2)(9) was transported to the 45th Precinct stationhouse. At the 45th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Basora allegedly told §87(2)(b) that he was not going to "...give [him] shit" (Allegation J: Discourtesy – Word: §87(2)(9) After he was lodged in a cell at the stationhouse, Police Officer Basora, Police Officer Cotto, and Police Officer Sean Liscoe of the 45th Precinct allegedly took § 87(2)(b) out of his cell, lifted him off the ground, and together they allegedly ran his head into a cement wall (Allegations K, L, and M: Force - Physical Force: \$87(2)(9) Police Officer Melvin Chittum of the 45th Precinct and Police Officer Liscoe used physical force to place \$87(2)(b) (Allegations N and O: Force – Physical Force: \$87(2)(9) Police Officer Chittum and Lieutenant Burim Berisha of the 45th Precinct threatened 887(2)(b) with the use of a Taser (Allegations P and Q: Abuse of Authority – Threat of Force: §87(2)(9) received medical treatment at § 87(2)(b) . He was charged with § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(a) 160.50 . Sometime between the time officers entered his apartment and when he returned home two days later, officers allegedly removed § 87(2)(b) s DVR system from (Allegation R: Abuse of Authority - Property Seizure: the basement of 87(2)(b) Page 2

). The criminal case against § 87(2)(6) was ultimately dismissed and his arrest was sealed. This case is being concurrently investigated by Bronx Investigations via IAB Log #17-37450. A request for the IAB case file has been submitted and will be added to the CCRB case file upon receipt. Video footage was not obtained for this incident. **Findings and Recommendations** Allegation A – Abuse of Authority: Lieutenant Michael Piper entered the basement of [507(2)] in the Bronx. Allegation B – Abuse of Authority: At 87(2)(b) I in the Bronx. Lieutenant Michael Piper damaged § 87(2)(b) s property. was interviewed at the CCRB on November 2, 2017, provided a telephone statement on December 19, 2017 (Board Review 01), and was interviewed at the CCRB for a second time on April 4, 2018. § 87(2)(b) provided a telephone statement on December 6, provided telephone statements on January 24, 2018. 2017 (Board Review 02). § 87(2)(b) (Board Review 03) and January 11, 2019 (Board Review 19). Police Officer Basora was interviewed on January 4, 2018, and again on June 7, 2018. Police Officer Fernando Benitez-Colon of the 45th Precinct was interviewed on January 5, 2018. Police Officer Chittum was interviewed on January 10, 2018. Lieutenant Piper was interviewed on January 17, 2018. Police Officer Houlihan was interviewed on January 23, 2018. Lieutenant Berisha was interviewed on January 24, 2018. Police Officer Anderson was interviewed on January 24, 2018. Police Officer Cotto was interviewed on January 31, 2018, and again on June 15, 2018. Detective Persaud was interviewed on February 21, 2018. At 8:00 p.m. on August 2, 2017, § 87(2)(b) filed a complaint with the NYPD alleging that her boyfriend, §87(2)(b) broke into her apartment at \$87(2)(b) put a knife to her neck, told her he would kill her if she called the police, and threatened to have his friends rape her (Board Review 04). stated that he and §87(2)(b) lived together at §87(2)(b) approximately 2:45 a.m. on August 3, 2017, he arrived there after celebrating his birthday. was the superintendent in the building, and instead of going into his apartment he went into the basement, which was a private area with a lockable steel door, a bed, and a television. § 87(2)(b) wanted to reset his circuit breakers, so he turned off the water for the building, then the electricity, and then stayed in the basement to watch television. By turning off the water for the building, § 87(2)(b) prompted a 9-1-1 call from a tenant, who complained to 9-1-1 that her water had been shut off. At 3:18 a.m., Police Officers Hector

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Basora and Gabriel Cotto arrived at \$37(2)(b) in response to this 9-1-1 call and informed



Courts have determined that officers may enter an apartment without a warrant under the emergency doctrine if (1) they have reasonable grounds that there is an emergency at hand and an immediate need for their assistance for the protection of life and property; (2) the search is not primarily motivated by intent to arrest and seize evidence; and (3) there is some reasonable basis, approximating probable cause, to associate with the area or place to be searched, People v.

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property if doing so was necessary to carry out their duties (Board Review 09). It is undisputed that \$87(2)(b) turned off the water and electricity in \$87(2)(b) Lieutenant Piper and Police Officer Basora both stated that they were informed that an individual in the apartment complex told them that this caused a life-threatening condition \$87(2)(9). §87(2)(b) Allegation C – Force: At § 87(2)(b) in the Bronx, Police Officer Gabriel Cotto used physical force against § 87(2)(b) Allegation D – Force: A(§ 87(2)(b) in the Bronx, Police Officer Gabriel Cotto used physical force against § 87(2)(b) According to §37(2)(b) when officers entered his basement, Police Officer Basora immediately instructed him to place his hands behind his back and placed §87(2)(b) handcuffs. Police Officer Cotto asked \$87(2)(6) whether he thought that the officers were not going to be able to get into the basement and asked why he had not simply opened the door. told Police Officer Cotto, "That's your job, right? You did your job. You happy?" In response, Police Officer Cotto punched \$87(2)(b) on the left side of his head, causing a cut on the left side of his forehead. Lieutenant Piper said, "Get him out of here," and the officers began to escort § 87(2)(b) out of the basement. § 87(2)(b) told Police Officer Cotto, "Smile because the cameras are right there, motherfucker." In response. Police Officer Cotto in the side of his head with a closed fist, causing a second cut on the left side of § 87(2)(b) s forehead. Later in his account he stated that force was used against him while at the 45th Precinct stationhouse. According to Police Officer Cotto, he never entered the § 87(2)(b) officers entered, he was upstairs. An officer called for him to come downstairs to the (\$\frac{8}{37(2)}(0)\$) As he walked downstairs, he observed \$87(2)(b) being removed from the basement by Police Officers Basora, Anderson, and Houlihan, and Lieutenant Piper. He did not enter the basement. He grabbed \$87(2)(b) by the arm and escorted him upstairs to a police vehicle that was outside. He denied that any officer punched \$87(2)(b) He did not remember \$\frac{1}{2}\$ saying that there were cameras in his basement.

Mitchell, 39 N.Y.2d 122 (Board Review 07), Brigham City v Stuart, 547 U.S. 398 (Board Review

In Onderdonk v. State, 170 Misc. 2d 155 (1996), the court ruled that officers could damage

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08).

was placed into handcuffs. However, none of the other officers knew if Police Officer Cotto was in the during that time. All of them denied that \$87(2)(b) was punched in the head at \$87(2)(b)
Police Officer Basora accounted for placing \$87(2)(b) into handcuffs and walking him upstairs with the assistance of Police Officer Houlihan. He believed that Police Officer Cotto and Police Officer Anderson stood in the doorway to the basement as \$87(2)(b) was escorted upstairs and outside.
According to the FDNY Prehospital Care Report (Board Review 10), at approximately 9:54 a.m. on \$87(2)(b) complained that his back hurt and that he had fallen, injuring his forehead. According to his medical records from \$87(2)(b) (Board Review 11), he had a small laceration to his forehead with no active bleeding. He complained that he had struck his head against a cement object. Neither of the accounts documented by medical professionals referenced \$87(2)(b) interacting with the NYPD.
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation E – Discourtesy: At \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx, Police Officer Gabriel Cotto spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(b)
Allegation F – Offensive Language: At \$67(2)(b) in the Bronx, Police Officer Gabriel Cotto made remarks based on \$87(2)(b) s gender identity.
On April 4, 2018, a photo-viewing was conducted with \$87(2)(b) During this photo-viewing, \$87(2)(b) mentioned allegations that he did not provide during his initial statements. Consequently, a second sworn statement was obtained in which \$87(2)(b) stated the following (Board Review 01):
According to \$87(2)(b) after he was punched in the head for the first time, but before he was punched in the second time, Police Officer Cotto said of \$87(2)(b) to Police Officer Basora, "Esta pieza de mierda cree que tiene bola." Translated from Spanish, this meant, 'This piece of shit thinks he has balls' \$87(2)(b) did not provide this information to the CCRB in his initial statements because he had been unaware that officers were not allowed to use profanity.

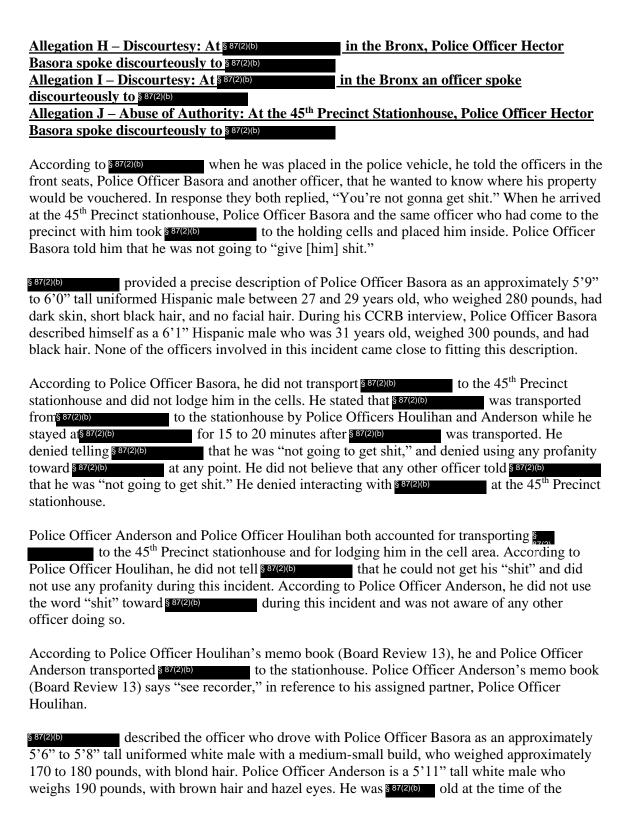
According to Police Officer Basora, he did not make this statement. He acknowledged that he was fluent in Spanish. He added that Police Officer Cotto understood "a little Spanish" but was not fluent. Neither of them were certified to speak Spanish by the NYPD. He denied that any officers spoke Spanish during this incident.

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According to Police Officer Cotto, he did not say, "Este pieza de mierda cerece tiene bola." Police Officer Cotto denied being able to speak Spanish. When asked whether Police Officer Basora spoke Spanish, he replied, "No. I don't think he speaks Spanish." He denied that any of the officers he worked with on the evening of the incident spoke Spanish. He stated that he had worked regularly with all the officers who had been present during the incident and had never heard any of them speak Spanish.

§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation G – Abuse of Authority: Lieutenant Michael Piper searched the basement of in the Bronx.
It is undisputed that after \$87(2)(b) was taken out of the 87(2)(b) to the police vehicle that awaited him, Lieutenant Piper and Police Officer Basora searched the basement \$887(2)(b)
According to Lieutenant Piper, as \$87(2)(b) was escorted upstairs, he and at least one other officer – he did not remember who - stayed with him. They turned on the water and electricity and searched the area where \$87(2)(b) had been sitting as a "safety sweep." According to Police Officer Basora, when \$87(2)(b) was transported to the 45th Precinct stationhouse, he stayed behind to search the basement.
In <u>Maryland v. Buie</u> , 494 U.S. 325 (Board Review 12), the court ruled that officers could conduct a protective sweep of a basement after an arrest without a search warrant, and as a precautionary matter and without probable cause or reasonable suspicion, could look in spaces immediately adjoining the place of arrest. The court held that there had to be articulable facts which would warrant a prudent officer in believing that the area to be swept harbored an individual posing danger. In this case the court noted that an in-home arrest puts an officer at the disadvantage of being on his adversary's "turf," where an ambush in a confined setting is more feared than in the open. The court also noted that if there was reason to suspect that the arrestee had accomplices, that reasonable suspicion was sufficient to justify a limited additional intrusion to investigate the possibility of their presence.
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)

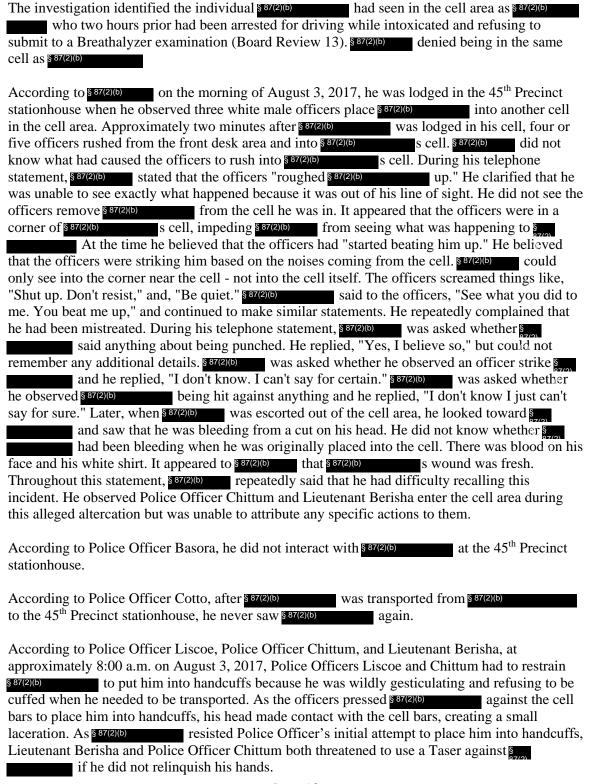
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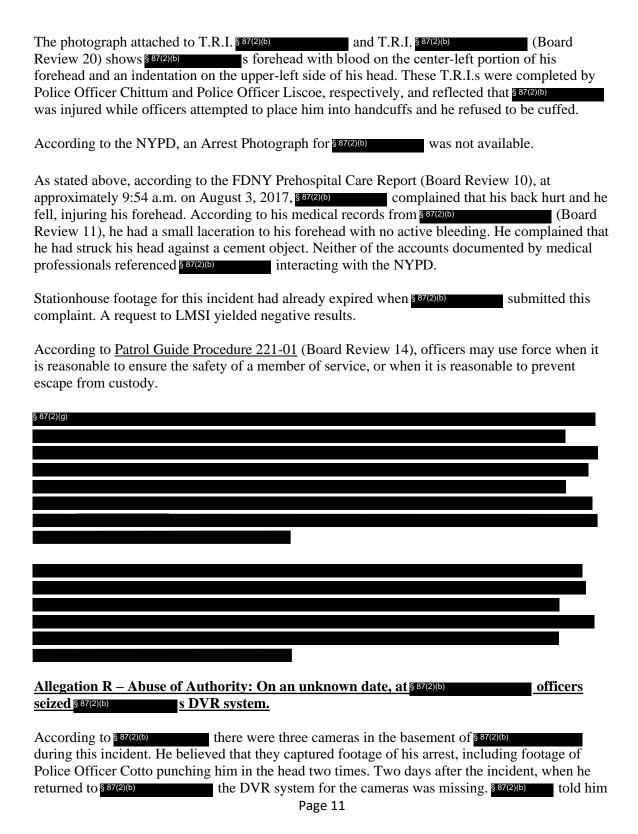


hair and brown eyes. He was \$87(2)(b) old at the time of the incident.
§ 87(2)(g)
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§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation K – Force: At the 45 th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Hector Basora struck
against a wall.
Allegation L – Force: At the 45 th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Gabriel Cotto struck
against a wall.
Allegation M – Force: At the 45 th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Sean Liscoe struck
against a wall. Allegation N – Force: At the 45 th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Sean Liscoe used
force against § 87(2)(b)
Allegation O – Force: At the 45 th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Melvin Chittum used
force against \$87(2)(b)
Allegation P – Abuse of Authority: At the 45 th Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Melvin
Chittum threatened \$87(2)(b) with the use of force.
Allegation Q – Abuse of Authority: At the 45 th Precinct stationhouse, Lieutenant Burim
Berisha threatened §87(2)(b) with the use of force.
According to \$87(2)(b) at the 45 th Precinct stationhouse, shortly after being placed in his
cell, Police Officer Basora, Police Officer Cotto, and Police Officer Liscoe entered the cell area
and demanded that \$87(2)(b) allow himself to be fingerprinted. \$87(2)(b) replied that
he was not going to allow the officers to fingerprint him unless they provided him with his keys
and cell phone. Police Officer Liscoe pulled \$87(2)(b) out of the cell and placed him in
handcuffs. The three officers took § 87(2)(b) to the ground and then lifted him back to his
feet. Police Officer Liscoe grabbed \$87(2)(b) s shirt on his right shoulder and Police
Officer Cotto grabbed his shirt on his left shoulder. Police Officer Cotto put his hand on the back
of \$87(2)(b) s head and forcefully pushed his head 2.5 feet forward into a concrete wall next to the cell area. \$87(2)(b) believed he may have lost consciousness. \$87(2)(b)
was placed back into the cell and cried. § 87(2)(b) who was in the same cell as §
told him to file a complaint.
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incident. Police Officer Houlihan is a 5'7" tall white male who weighs 210 pounds with brown

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that after the incident she saw officers go into the basement with a suitcase, leading to believe that officers took the DVR containing the surveillance footage from \$87(2)
According to Police Officer Basora, several days after the incident he obtained a subpoena for the surveillance footage in \$87(2)(b) He learned that when officers went to retrieve it, the hardware for the DVR system had been removed.
According to Detective Persaud's DD5s (Board Review 15), on August 9, 2017, he went to investigate the domestic violence complaint against \$87(2)(6) and was informed by \$87(2)(6) that the DVR system had been removed. She added that she spoke to another group of officers several days before and had told them the same thing. She insinuated that the DVR system may have been removed by the landlord, \$87(2)(6)
Police Officer Cotto did not know what had happened to the surveillance system. Lieutenant Piper did not recall observing any surveillance cameras at \$87(2)(b) Police Officer Anderson did not know what happened to the surveillance system. Police Officer Houlihan did not recall seeing a surveillance console in the basement of \$87(2)(b)
According to \$87(2)(b) he did not know who removed the DVR system from his basement. It belonged to his management company, and consequently, him (Board Review 03) (Board Review 19).
§ 87(2)(g)
Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories • §87(2)(b)
• Lieutenant Piper has been a member-of-service for eleven years and has been a subject in three CCRB complaints and six allegations, none of which were substantiated. § 87(2)(9)
• Police Officer Cotto has been a member-of-service for seventeen years and has been a subject in five CCRB complaints and eleven allegations, none of which were substantiated. § 87(2)(9)
• Police Officer Basora has been a member-of-service for three years and has been a subject in one CCRB complaint and two allegations, none of which were substantiated. § 87(2)(g)

			welve years and has been a of which were substantiated.
§ 87(2)(g)	_		
subjectPolicetof six	ct of any CCRB complaints	member-of-service for six e allegations. In Case #20	
0.07(0)(1)		, Civil and Criminal His	<u>tories</u>
● § 87(2)(b)	, § 87(2)(c)		
injurio • Accor	case was not eligible for me es he sustained during the in rding to the New York City him has been filed in this ca	ncident. Comptroller's Office, as	s arrest and the of October 23, 2018, no Notice
Squad 12			
Investigatore			
Investigator:	Signature	Print	Date
Squad Leader	:		
	Title/Signature	Print	Date
Reviewer:			
	Title/Signature	Print	Date